



# SOAPS

## Overview:

Often students approach a text or reading assignment, or even the analysis of a primary document with no particular plan in mind. But textual materials and most visual materials contain a series of facts which students need to discover in an organized manner. Understanding these basic facts is the springboard for discussion and deeper analysis. The SOAPS strategies are designed to be used in all grade levels and all social studies subjects as an memorable method to begin analysis of the basic facts.

## Materials Needed:

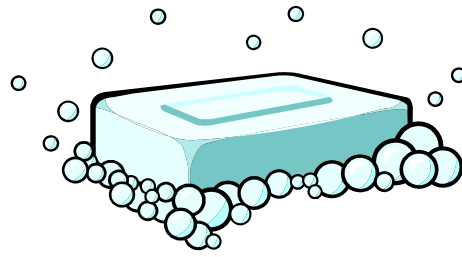
SOAP Guide

Reading or primary source material

## Procedure:

As students examine their assigned text or source, ask them to respond to the following in complete sentences or short phrases, as the instructor desires (*see chart below.*)

## SOAPS



for

*It is important that students have a strategy analyzing any text. The acronym SOAPS (Subject, Occasion, Audience, Purpose, Speaker) guides students in analytical reading of primary sources...*

SOAPS	
Who is the <u>Speaker</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Identification of the historical person (or group of people) who created the primary source.</b></li><li>• Include what the student knows about this person's role in history or current events.</li></ul>
What is the <u>Occasion</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The time and place; the current situation.</b></li><li>• It is particularly important that students understand the context that encouraged the primary source to be created.</li></ul>
Who is the <u>Audience</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The readers to whom this document is directed</b></li><li>• The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group; it may be a certain person or a certain people.</li></ul>
What is the <u>Purpose</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The reason behind the text;</b></li><li>• Why was it written? What goal did the author have in mind?</li></ul>
What is the <u>Subject</u> ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Identification of the historical person (or group of people) who created the primary source.</b></li><li>• Include what the student knows about this person's role in history or current events.</li></ul>